

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02346 181457Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 INRE-00

SSO-00 /034 W

-----181500Z 062933 /50

O 181443Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3220

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 2346

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ESTC, PARM, PFOR, MASS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: SALE OF SMALL ARMS AMMO TO NICARAGUA

REF: (A) STATE 110196 (B) MANAGUA 2231

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS AND CAN APPRECIATE RATIONALE OUTLINED IN REF A FOR NOT AUTHORIZING FMS TRANSACTIONS FOR GUARDIA NACIONAL ACQUISITION OF SUNDRY LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND AMMO AT THE PRESENT TIME. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THAT SAME RATIONALE IS APPLIED (PER PARA 4, REF A) TO COMMERCIAL SALE OF HANDGUN AND OTHER LIGHT AMMO WHICH IS DESTINED FOR RETAIL PURCHASE BY LICENSED HOLDERS OF FIRE ARMS AMONG GENERAL PUBLIC.

2. THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO DENY LICENSES FOR THE EXPORT OF SUCH AMMO WHEN THE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL ARMS AND AMMO TO RETAILERS IS ONE OF GUARDIA'S FUNCTIONS STRIKES US AS OVERLY RIGID. WE TRUST THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE GUARDIA'S RIGHT, PER SE, TO CONTROL THE IMPORTATION OF WEAPONS AND AMMO. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GUARDIA INTENDS TO COMMANDEER THE AMMO IN QUESTION FOR ITS OWN USE AND WE SEE NO INDICATION IN REFTEL THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS EVIDENCE OF, OR SUSPECTS, SUCH INTENTION EITHER.

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3. WE PRESUME THAT WERE THIS AMMO TO BE IMPORTED DIRECTLY BY A PRIVATE WHOLESALER FOR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION TO LICENSED GUN-HOLDERS, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT DENY ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES. GIVEN THE APPARENTLY TECHNICAL ROLD OF THE GUARDIA IN THE CASES AT ISSUE (PARA 2, REF B), THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER ITS DECISION AND APPROVE THESE TRANSACTIONS AS COMMERCIAL ONES ONLY PERIPHERALLY CONNECTED WITH THE GUARDIA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANAGU02346  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770176-1310  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** cdd6e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 110196, 77 MANAGUA 2231  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2472537  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SALE OF SMALL ARMS AMMO TO NICARAGUA  
**TAGS:** ETRD, ESTC, PARM, PFOR, MASS, SHUM, NU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cdd6e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009